

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An appendage protector for protecting the thumb of a wearer of the protector, the protector comprising:

- a. an attachment mechanism;
- b. an upper layer defining first and second distal ends, the upper layer being attached to the attachment mechanism;
- c. a lower layer defining first and second distal ends and a longitudinal axis, the lower layer being connectable to the upper layer at first distal ends of the lower and upper layers, the lower layer being connectable to the upper layer at second distal ends of the lower and upper layers with the attachment mechanism and forming an opening coaxially aligned with the longitudinal axis of the lower layer, said opening defining a cavity for receiving said thumb.

2. The protector of Claim 1 wherein the upper and lower layers respectively define first and second edges that extend from the first distal ends to the second distal ends of the upper and lower layers, and the first and second edges of respective upper and lower layers form elongated apertures for aerating moisture excreted from the thumb.

3. The protector of Claim 1 wherein the lower layer defines a contact portion on an external surface of the lower layer and has a tacky material adhered thereto.

4. The protector of Claim 3 wherein the contact portion is cleanable such that the tacky material may be removed after use and additional tacky material may be applied thereto.

5. The protector of Claim 1 wherein the layers are fabricated from stretchable material such that the lower layer may conform to a shape of the thumb.

6. The protector of Claim 5 wherein the stretchable material is neoprene.

7. The protector of Claim 6 wherein the neoprene material is approximately 1/8" thick.

8. The protector of Claim 1 wherein the attachment mechanism maintains the upper and lower layers in a closed position around the thumb and retains the protector about the thumb.

9. The protector of Claim 8 wherein the attachment mechanism is connected to the upper and lower layers and has an engaged position such that second distal ends of the upper and lower layers define an opening for receiving the thumb, and a circumference of the opening being less than a diameter of the thumb.

10. The protector of Claim 8 wherein the attachment mechanism is selected from the group consisting of hook and loop, button and button hole, buckle, and snaps.

11. The protector of Claim 8 wherein the lower layer defines first and second strap portions that is extendable from an underside of the thumb to the upperside of the thumb, and the upper and lower layers are attachable at the second distal ends with the attachment mechanism.

12. The protector of Claim 8 wherein the attachment mechanism is a hook and loop and the lower layer defines first and second strap portions, a first strip of loops being attached to an external surface of the upper layer at the second distal end, first and second strips of hooks being attached to external and internal layers, respectively, of the lower layer on the first strap portion such that the first strip of hooks is attachable to the first strip of loops, and a second strip of loops being attached to the internal layer of the second strap portion such that the second strip of loops is attachable to the second strip of hooks.

13. The protector of Claim 8 wherein the attachment mechanism is snaps, and the lower layer defines first and second strap portions, a first receiving snap being attached to an external surface of the upper layer at the second distal end and a first protrusion snap being attached to the first strap portion on an internal surface and attachable to the first receiving snap, and a second receiving snap being attached to an external surface of the first strap portion and a second protrusion snap being attached to the internal surface of the second strap portion and attachable to the second receiving snap.